

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 03160 191944Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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P 191530Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7676

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 3160

EXDIS

FOR S/S

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, AG, SS, FR

SUBJ: LETTER TO SECRETARY FROM ALGERIAN FONMIN

1. ON DEC 19 ALGERIAN FONMIN POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRGEN BOUSSELHAM
DELIVERED TO AMBASSADOR UNSIGNED LETTER TO SECRETARY FROM ALGERIAN
FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF FRENCH TEXT
FOLLOWS:

"HIS EXCELLENCY CYRUS VANCE

"SECRETARY OF STATE

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"WASHINGTON, D.C.

"MR. SECRETARY:

"PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND I WERE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE
TERMS OF YOUR LETTER OF LAST NOVEMBER 2 AND NOTED WITH SATISFACTION
YOUR APPRECIATION FOR THE ACTION OF THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT AIMED
AT FACILITATING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE DETENTION
OF FRENCH CITIZENS BY THE POLISARIO FRONT.

"IT IS A FACT THAT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS, WHICH IS OF CONCERN
IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE, IS SIMPLY THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE EVENTS
WHICH HAVE PLUNGED THE WESTERN SAHARA INTO MOURNING SINCE THE
ANNEXATION AND DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF THE SAHRAOUI
PEOPLE IN VIOLATION OF ALL RECOGNIZED PRINCIPLES AND ALL DECISIONS
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ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

"YOU HAVE DOUBTLESS LEARNED THAT THE POLISARIO FRONT HAS
JUST DECIDED TO LIBERATE THE FRENCH PRISONERS. THIS CAN ONLY
BE PLEASING TO THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT SINCE THE DECISION IS IN
LINE WITH THE EFFORTS WHICH, FOR ITS PART, IT HAS CONSTANTLY MADE.

"HOWEVER, YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE
PROBLEM OF THE RIGHT OF THE SAHARA OUI PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION

REMAINS AND THAT THE SITUATION IN THE REGION IS GROWING MORE GRAVE, NOTABLY BECAUSE OF FRENCH INTERFERENCE AND MILITARY INTERVENTION WHICH, FAR FROM FACILITATING THE EMERGENCE OF A PERIOD OF PEACE AND STABILITY, CONTRIBUTE ON THE CONTRARY TO AGGRAVATING TENSIONS AND TO COMPLICATING THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM

"ALL THIS IS TO SAY, MR. SECRETARY, HOW MUCH MY GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OF THE NECESSITY OF UNDERSTANDING MORE OBJECTIVELY THE PROBLEM OF THE WESTERN SAHARA AND OF CONTRIBUTING TO ITS SOLUTION ON JUST AND DURABLE FOUNDATIONS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FATE. AS CONCERNS ALGERO-FRENCH RELATIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU OF OUR CONSTANT WISH TO SEE THEM DEVELOP IN A FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE WAY, ALL THE MORE SINCE THE TIES EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES GIVE THESE RELATIONS A SPECIAL CHARACTER. NEVERTHELESS, OUR WISH CAN ONLY BE REALIZED IF THE FRENCH LEADERS ARE MOTIVATED BY THE SAME POLITICAL DESIRE TO WORK FOR BALANCED AND EGALITARIAN RELATIONS THAT RESPECT THE MAJOR OPTIONS AND INTERESTS OF THEIR PARTNER.

"FURTHERMORE, RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTENSE INTEREST IN RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN, I AM CONVINCED THAT, IN THE CASE OF THE WESTERN SAHARA, HE COULD NOT REMAIN INSENSITIVE TO THE TRAGIC SITUATION OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES DRIVEN FROM THEIR COUNTRY AND ASPIRING TO RETURN THERE WILL ALL THE RIGHTS WHICH INTERNATIONAL BODIES HAVE UNANIMOUSLY RECOGNIZED.

"THE FURTHER WITNESS WHICH YOUR LETTER BEARS TO THE PREOCCUP-
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ATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM AND WITH ITS REPERCUSSIONS IN THE REGION IS TRUE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE FRIENDLY CONCERT OF VIEWS WHICH MARKED THE DISCUSSION I HAD WITH YOU IN PARIS ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. I WOULD LIKE, MR. SECRETARY, TO EXPRESS TO YOU ONCE MORE MY SATISFACTION AT THE CHARACTER OF THIS MEETING, OF WHICH I HAVE THE BEST OF MEMORIES, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO THANK YOU FOR THE WARMTH OF THE WELCOME YOU ACCORDED ME DURING MY VISIT TO WASHINGTON. INCONTESTABLY, BOTH UNDERLINE THE DESIRE OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO PURSUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP IN A CLIMATE OF UNDERSTANDING, ESTEEM AND FRIENDSHIP.

"PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. SECRETARY AND GOOD FRIEND, THE EXPRESSION OF MY HIGH CONSIDERATION.

ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA
MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS"

2. ORIGINAL TEXT OF LETTER BEING POUCHED S/S.

3. COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

4. DEPT MAY WISH REPEAT LETTER TO EMBASSIES MADRID, NOUAKCHOTT,
PARIS, RABAT AND TO USUN.
HAYNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALGIER03160
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770472-0846
Format: TEL
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771243/aaaabjut.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 71c88601-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 193880
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO SECRETARY FROM ALGERIAN FONMIN
TAGS: PDIP, PSDC, AG, SS, FR, (BOUTEFLIKA, ABDELAZIZ), (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/71c88601-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009